

Department of State

TELEGRAM



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~~SECRET~~ 794

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INFO OCT 01, /031 W

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2547  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

~~SECRET~~ JERUSALEM 662

~~EXD-1S~~

TWA HIJACKING

FROM ZURHELLEN

REF: JERUSALEM 661

1. I AM REPORTING RESULTS OF DEMARCHE REGARDING SWAP OF PILOTS FOR ISRAELI PASSENGERS FROM JERUSALEM BECAUSE I WILL NOT BE BACK IN TEL AVIV UNTIL TOMORROW.

2. AFTER TELLING ME HE WAS SURE GOI REPLY ON SWAP WOULD BE FLAT "NO" RAFAEL WENT ON IN PERSONAL VEIN. HE SAID THAT "AS I KNEW" GOI HAD SUGGESTED TO USG THAT MESSAGE BE SENT FROM PRESIDENT NIXON TO ATASSI. SPEAKING ENTIRELY FOR HIMSELF, AND SAYING HE WOULD HAVE TO DENY HAVING MADE STATEMENT IF TAXED WITH IT, HE THOUGHT USG SHOULD CONSIDER MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TO ATASSI ASKING SYRIANS TO RELEASE PASSENGERS; WHEN SYRIANS REPLY THAT THEY HAVE INTEREST IN MIG PILOTS, USG SHOULD SAY THAT IT HAS CERTAIN INFLUENCE IN ISRAEL AND WOULD USE THAT INFLUENCE TO TRY TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF MIG PILOTS ONCE SYRIANS HAD RELEASED PASSENGERS. IF SYRIANS WOULD LET PASSENGERS GO ON THIS BASIS, RAFAEL SAID, THEN USG COULD TURN TO GOI AND HE FELT OUR INFLUENCE WOULD BE EFFECTIVE.

3. I SAID THAT SUPPOSE SYRIANS SIMPLY ANSWERED USG TO EFFECT THAT AS SOON AS USG GAVE ASSURANCE THAT GOI WOULD RELEASE PILOTS, THEN SARG WOULD RELEASE PASSENGERS, AND USG THEN CAME TO GOI, WHAT WOULD GOI SAY THEN? RAFAEL WAS CATEGORIC IN SAYING THAT GOI WOULD HAVE TO SAY NO, THERE WOULD BE NO ADVANCE DEAL. PASSEN-

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

~~SECRET~~  
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*Jerusalem 662  
10-2-69*

